



B A T M A N.
LEGENDS OF THE
DARK KNIGHT[®]

NO 19 JUN 91
1.75 CAN 2.25



VENOM[™]

PART FOUR OF FIVE

DENNIS O'NEIL + TREVOR VON EEDEN
RUSSELL BRAUN + JOSÉ LUIS GARCIA-LOPÉZ

VENOM: PART FOUR

Story: Denny O'Neil • Layouts: Trevor Von Eeden •
Pencils: Russell Braun • Inks: José Luis García-López •
Wally Schubert: Letters • Steve Oliff: Colors • Dooley & Heller: Editors



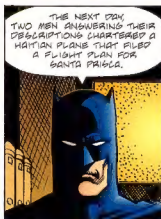
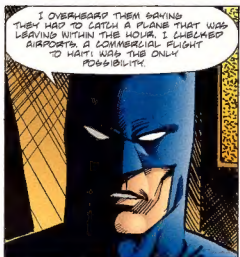
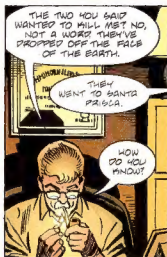
AT FIRST, THERE ARE ONLY GRUNTS AND CRIES OF BOTH PAIN AND SURPRISE, BUT WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS, THERE IS THE SNAPPING OF BONE AND THE GHAUTLY BUBBLING OF BLOOD SEEPING INTO THROATS. FINALLY, VOICES:

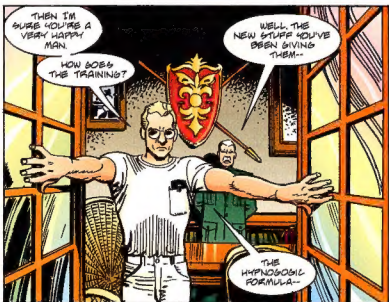
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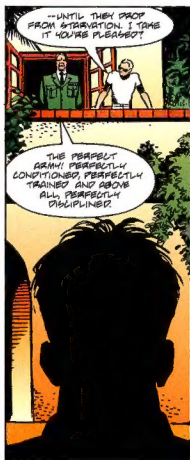
Jnx_Scanz_HaCSa !!!

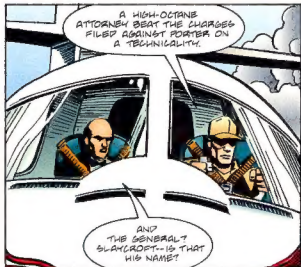






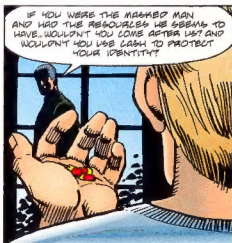
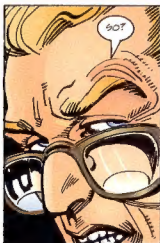








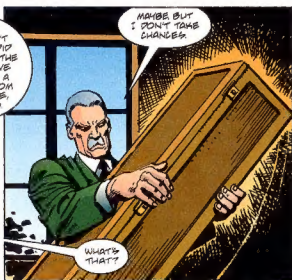
THE LOCAL CHIEF OF POLICE HE SAID THAT HIS MAN IN HAITI REPORTS THAT AN AMERICAN BOUGHT A TWIN-ENGINE PLANE. PAID CASH FOR IT AND LOADED IT WITH ELECTRONICS. HE'S HEADED THIS WAY.



IF YOU WERE THE MASKED MAN AND HAD THE RESOURCES HE SEEMS TO HAVE...WOULDN'T YOU COME AFTER US? AND WOULDN'T YOU USE CASH TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY?



IT'S NOT HIM. IT CAN'T BE WHAT I DID TO HIM WITH THE PULSE I GAVE HIM...HE'S IN A RUBBER ROOM SOMEWHERE, DRAGGING



MAYBE BUT I DON'T TAKE CHANCES.

WHAT'S THAT?

SHE IS...

heir to an ancient
heroic legacy

SHE IS...

an untamable force
against crime

SHE IS...

a newcomer to
American shores

SHE IS...

trapped in a world
beyond her control

SHE IS...

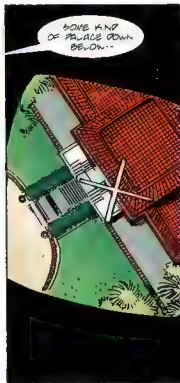
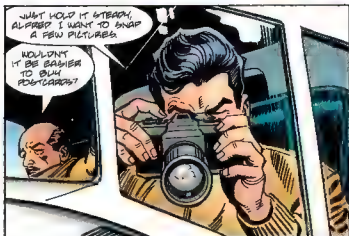
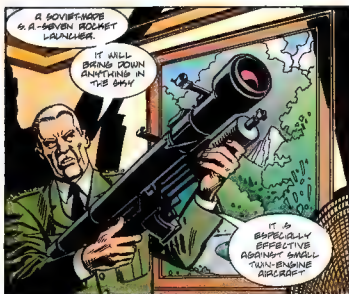
THE JAGUAR

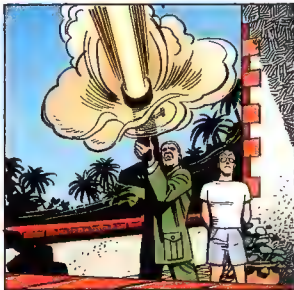
WELCOME TO THE
NEW ERA
OF SUPER-HEROES

AVAILABLE IN JUNE FROM



IMPACT COMICS







MASTER
BAULE. IF
YOU WANT MY
REMNATION,
YOU MIGHT
ASK FOR
IT



AN INSTANT OF BLINDING
HEAT, AN EXPLOSION THAT
SEEMS TO SPLIT THE SKY



AND THEN ALL OF
CREATION SEEMS
TO BUFFET THEM.



FINALLY, A JOLT AS
THE PARACHUTE
BLOSSOMS ABOVE HIM.

**THE
REAPER
RETURNS TO
GOTHAM
CITY**

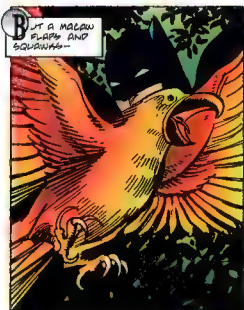


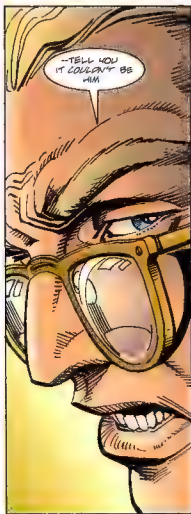
**THE RIVETING
SEQUEL
TO BATMAN:
YEAR TWO**

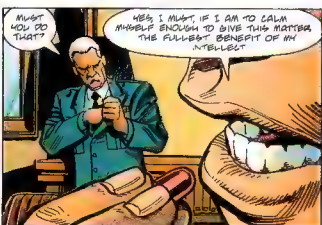


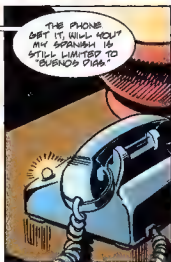
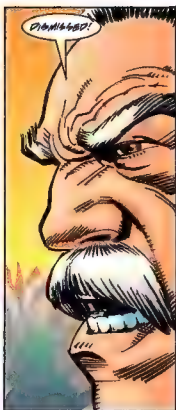
By Mike W. Barr and Alan Davis Coming Soon from DC Comics









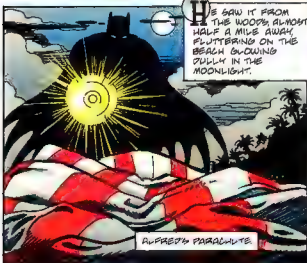




ESTA BIEN
GRACIAS

WHAT'S
"BIEN"?
THAT WAS
GOMEZ

HE'S GIVING
US SOMETHING
VERY USEFUL TO
USE AGAINST THE
NAMED MAN



H HE SAW IT FROM
THE WOODY ALMOST
HALF A MILE AWAY,
FLUTTERING ON THE
BEACH GLOWING
FULLY IN THE
MOONLIGHT.

ALFRED'S PARACHUTE



B UT THERE ARE NO FOOTPRINTS IN THE
SAND AROUND IT THE WIND MUST HAVE
CARRIED IT FROM...WHERE?

NO WAY TO TELL



B EST CASE SCENARIO
ALFRED IS HOLED
UP SOMEWHERE. WORST
HE'S DEAD.

IN EITHER CASE, THERE'S
NOTHING TO DO UNTIL
DAWNLIGHT



N OTHING EXCEPT WAIT

RIDE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE...
READ DC's EXPLOSIVE NEW SUMMER CROSSOVER

ARMAGEDDON 2001



ARMAGEDDON 2001 CHECKLIST

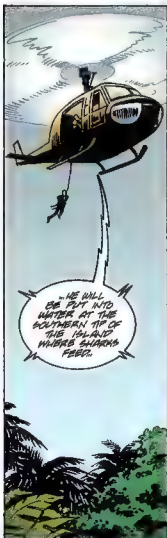
ARMAGEDDON 2001 #1
SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
BATMAN ANNUAL #15
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #5
HAWK & DOVE ANNUAL #2
HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #2
FLASH ANNUAL #1

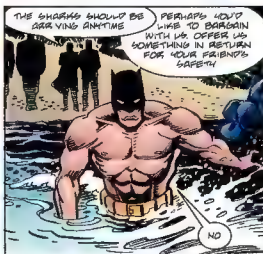
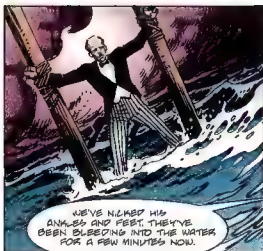
ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #3
L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 ANNUAL #2
NEW TITANS ANNUAL #7
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #4
JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ANNUAL #2
ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2

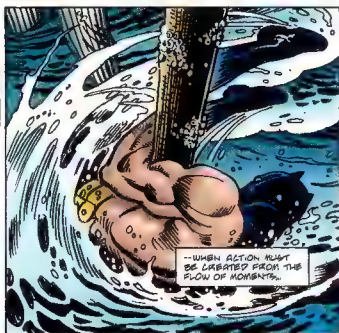
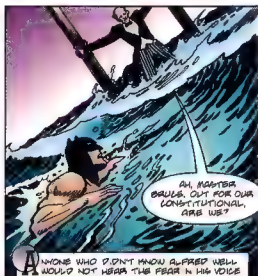
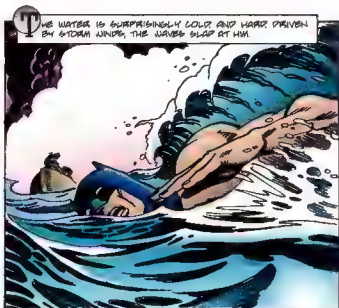
YEARS AGO, IN THE ORIENT, HE
LEARNED HOW TO BRING HIS
BRAINWAVES TO THE THETA STATE

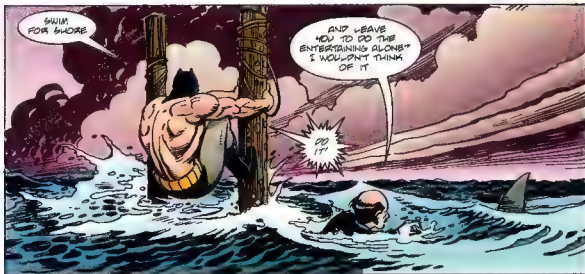
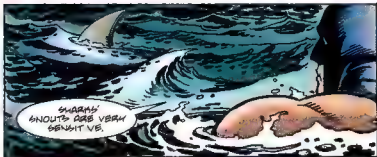
HE IS
PERFECTLY
RELAXED,
YET AWAKE

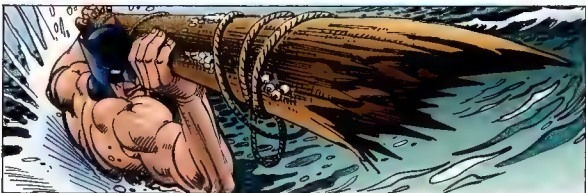
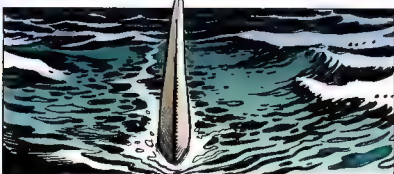
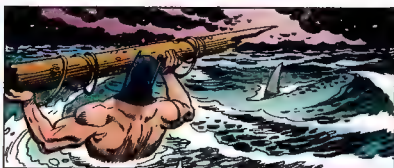
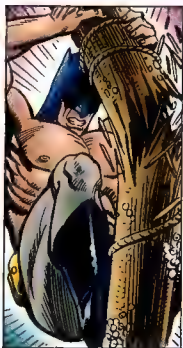
TIME WILL PASS

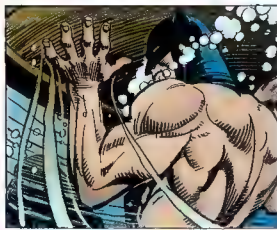
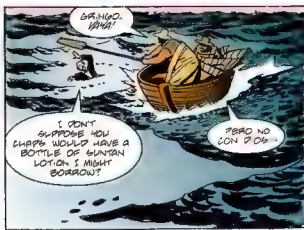
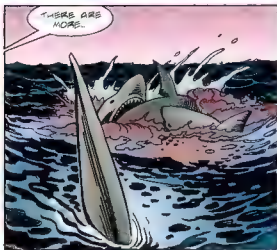
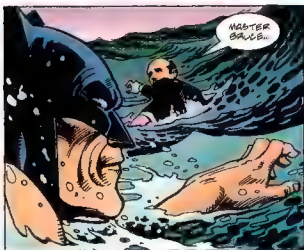
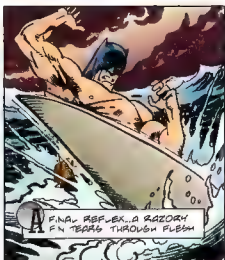


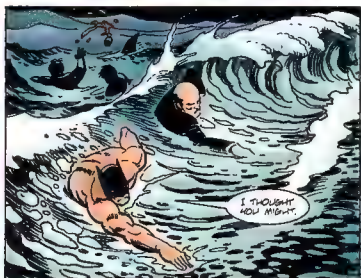
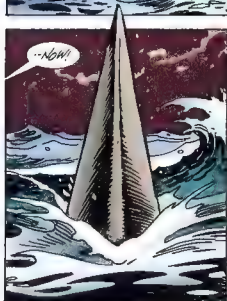
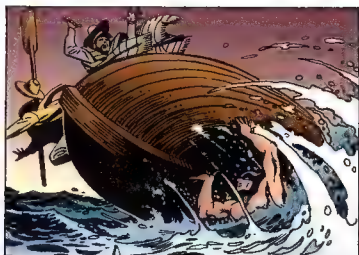


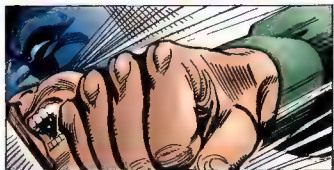












To be concluded.

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT.

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Dear Andrew,

Re: "Prey," up to and including #13. After "Gothic" concluded, I asked myself, "How can DC follow this?" It was, so I thought, a valid question. I considered "Gothic" to be Grant Morrison's finest Batman story to date, ARKHAM ASYLUM included. But "Prey" has amazed me by answering my question in a manner that has eradicated all doubts concerning the quality consistency of this title. It can be said a comic is only as good as its latest issue. If that is the case, then LOTDK is currently the best DC title, SANDMAN and all. "Prey" is a very special book for two reasons: the story and the art. By the use of Hugo Strange, in his most exciting incarnation yet, Mr. Moench has cast a new light on the Batman's motivations, and even origin, a subject I consider overplayed of late. "Prey" is far more insightful than ARKHAM ASYLUM, a book that was supposed to be some kind of a trip through Batman's mind, showing him to be almost as mad as those he combats. Mr. Moench has got it right, I feel. He shows us Bruce Wayne is strongly affected by his parents' murder (the scene where Bruce crushes the glass in his hand whilst watching Strange on TV), but at the same time demonstrates that Batman is always in full control of his thoughts and deeds (the brilliantly choreographed and drawn action scenes).

As for the art, that's just what it is—a work of art comparable to Bolland's THE KILLING JOKE work in places. It is, in my opinion, the best art to appear in a New Format title since the Charles Vess work in SANDMAN a while back. I especially liked the movie-poster style cover.

In conclusion, very good work, people; very good work, indeed.

Matthew Wilson
Ongar, Essex, England

Dear Editor,

After the conclusion of the "Gothic" saga, I felt that I could expect this series to go downhill. Not that I thought DC's writers were hacks—I just felt "Gothic" couldn't be topped.

Oops. Looks like I goofed.

"Prey" is every bit the equal of "Gothic" so far. Paul Gulacy has produced visuals of stunning power and authority. The artwork is truly vicious, as it should be for this story, but more important is the writing of Doug Moench, who manages to find all sorts of different psychological twists to insert into the script. This is especially poignant in the portrayal of Hugo Strange, whose obvious insecurities concerning his own machismo and sexuality are quite believably developed. One could almost pity Strange, were it not for his pathetic efforts to make life miserable for everyone around him.

It's also great to see Catwoman again, especially in such a strong fashion. She's always been one of my favorite Bat-villains, and I love seeing her in the pages of this book, particularly. She fits perfectly into this series, a book devoted to using storytelling techniques that couldn't work in ordinary comics.

Oh, yeah, it's nice to see how Bruce is reacting to Strange's media blitz, and nicer still to see more about the beginnings of the relationship between Jim Gordon and Batman.

Up to this point (I have read parts 1 through 3), "Prey" has been an unqualified success. Keep up the good work.

Sean Jump
Corbin, NY

Dear Editor,

So far "Prey" is excellent!

I must congratulate Moench, Gulacy, and Austin on their work! I really got into the story, and was fascinated by the artwork. I am anxiously awaiting "Venom" and other stories forthcoming. Doesn't Dr. Hugo Strange remind you a little of the Joker?

Jason Rivera
Teaneck, NJ

Dear Kevin,

Hugo Strange, Batman, Max Cort, Catwoman. Doesn't appear there are many sane people among the cast of "Prey." It's a good thing Gordon and Alfred are around to hold things together.

It's a shame this story's got to end.

Jan C. Childress
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Mr. Helfer,

Two days ago I bought and read the third issue of the current five-part story, "Prey." What superb writing and artwork! The creative team of Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, and Terry Austin deserve hearty applause for their efforts.

Randy Stout
Spokane, WA

Dear Paul Gulacy and Terry Austin,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Finally, someone brings Batman's fighting skills to the pages of a Batman title. I'm a martial artist myself, and I've never seen anyone render a character with such skills so well. Excellent work on the cover, too. At first glance in the comics shop, I thought it was a photo. Keep up the great work.

Frank Lambert
Palm Coast, FL

People,

I've been a comics fan (collector) for over twenty-five years. I literally have over twenty thousand comics, complete sets of nearly every Silver Age comic. My credentials are quite good, to say the least.

With this series of "Prey," Doug, Paul, Terry, and Steve, you have done a beautiful, beautiful comic book. Thank you.

Leslie Matyas
Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Hip, Hip, Hooray!

Am I glad because of the "Prey" story? Well, I am enjoying "Prey," but that is not why I am so happy.

Why am I so happy? Because Trevor VonEeden (one of my favorite artists) will be working on this series!

Ed Homa
Claymont, DE

Not only has Trevor done the layouts on this series, but he's also doing a three-part JLA starting with #52.

NOTES: Steven L. Shrewsbury inquires as to why the lettercolumn is only one page long. Simple: to give you more story. Next issue, due to story length, there will be none. Also to Steven, we will not have Batman use gratuitous obscenities. Or the lettercolumn either.

NEXT ISSUE: Batman goes up against Porter's monsters, and all the while he fights the demons from within. It would be so easy, so easy, for him to give in. If he doesn't, his life, and maybe Alfred's, may be forfeit. The dramatic conclusion of one of the most talked about Batman stories ever! From Dennis O'Neill, Trevor VonEeden, Russell Braun, and José Luis García-López.

—Kevin Dooley

HE IS...

the best of
his generation

HE IS...

the world's perfect
super-hero

HE IS...

the Army's
ultimate weapon

HE IS...

a soldier on the run!

THIS IS THE
BEGINNING OF...

**LEGEND
OF THE
SHIELD**

WELCOME TO THE
NEW ERA
OF SUPER-HEROES

AVAILABLE IN JUNE FROM

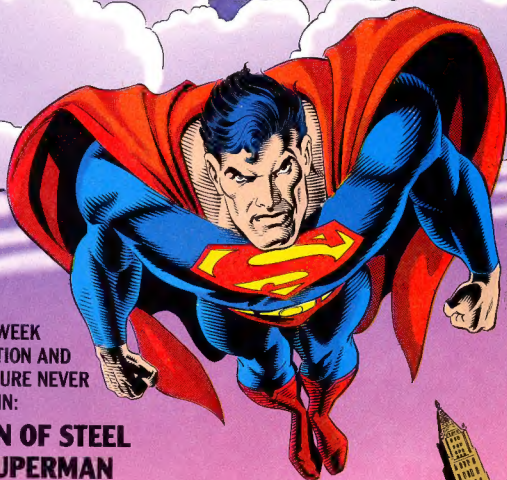


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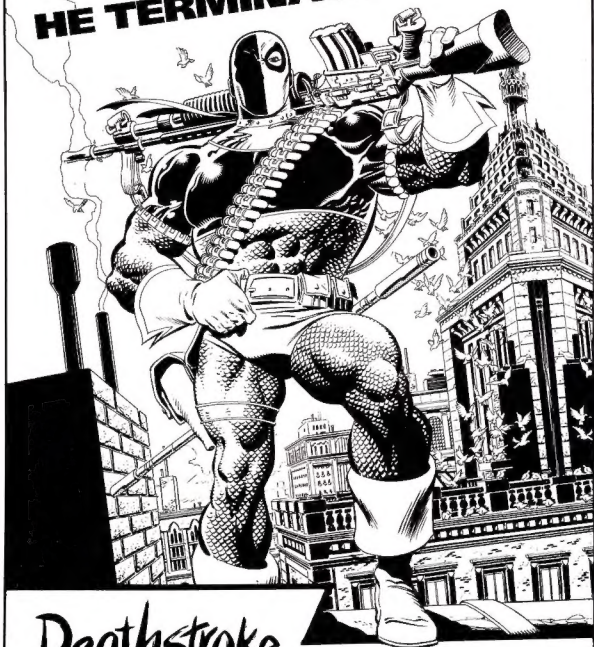
THE MAN OF STEEL FLIES AGAIN!

WEEK
AFTER WEEK
THE ACTION AND
ADVENTURE NEVER
LET UP IN:

- **MAN OF STEEL**
- **SUPERMAN**
- **THE ADVENTURES
OF SUPERMAN**
- **ACTION COMICS**



**HE DOESN'T
SOLVE PROBLEMS,
HE TERMINATES THEM.**



Deathstroke™
THE TERMINATOR

**Everything Has A Price.
Even Death.**

**by Marv Wolfman, Steve Erwin
and Will Blyberg
with covers
by Mike Zeck.**



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